



# THE THATCHAM POSTMARK

THATCHAM and DISTRICT PHILATELIC SOCIETY

WINTER EDITION JANUARY 2016



## The Chairman's A.G.M. Report

Yet again another good year for the society. Both the Thursday and Monday meetings were well attended and we had some excellent speakers. Malcolm Hoskins with 'Malcolm Entertains', David Walker from Wokingham, Roger Barry and Colin Lee from Reading and Tristan Brittain with his 'Rubbish'.

The A.G.M. went well with no major changes and the November Auction was very well organised by the committee especially Mike Ward who did sterling work collating all the lots and their prices, and Colin and Reg for looking after the lots as they came in.

There have been several new members coming along to the Monday meetings – do make them welcome.

Congratulations to all of the Christmas Competition winners and thank you to all that entered.

Finally a big thank you to all those members that have helped in many ways especially with organising the Westbex 16 stamp fair.

Finally the committee hope that you had a lovely Christmas and wish you all a prosperous New Year.  
Thank you all. Barney Bardsley, Chairman

## OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR

*Year 50*

*Issue 131*

*Inside this issue:-*

*Front page –Chairman's report*

*Page 2 - Photographs*

*Page 3 - Meetings data*

*Page 4 - Meetings data*

*Page 5 - Meetings data*

*Page 6 - Prizewinners and photo page*

*Page 7 - Websites, Royal Mail Issues, Society data.*

*Back page - Club Stamps, Future Events, Society data.*



The Christmas Competition Winners with the Judge  
Mike Smith

*For further information on anything in this newsletter please contact*

*Martin Farr, Editor*

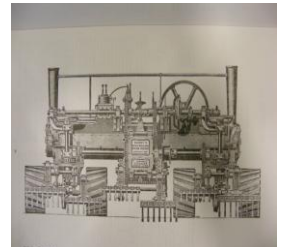
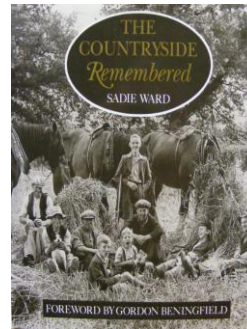
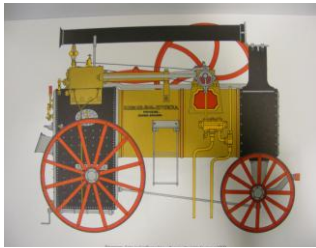
*Tel 01635 866437*

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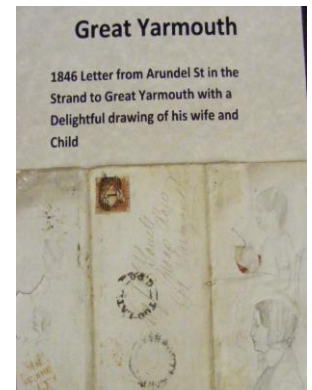
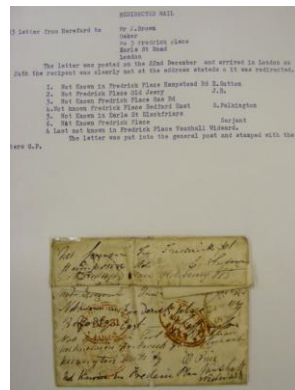
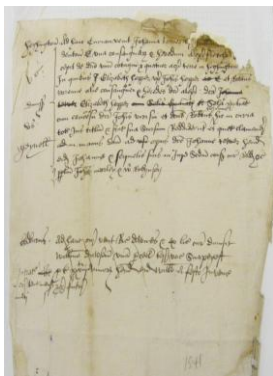
*Graeme Stewart, Secretary*

*Tel 01635 866942*

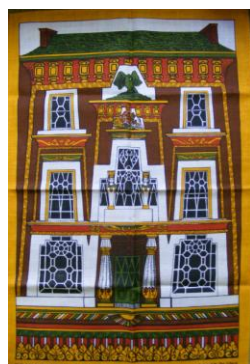
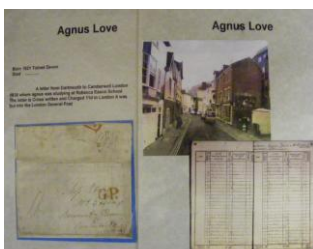
# Photo Gallery



Farming and Agriculture contraptions and publications



Tristan Brittain with some of his wonderful 'Rubbish'



The Agnes Love sheet

An Art Deco tea towel

A cover for Danish issues

Art Deco cards with horses!



Mike  
The Finance Wizard

Auction Night  
Tony David and Barney  
Auctioneer, Recorder and Scrutineer

Colin and Alan  
The Sorter Outers

## PAST EVENTS

**Monday October 5<sup>th</sup>**

The theme for this meeting was `Farming` and there were 19 members present.

**Ian Keel** started the afternoon showing animals, fish and farming stamps, fruit trees and `pick your own` stamps and sheets of stamps about land cultivation.

**Tony Jordan** was next with postcards of farming produce, information sheets on Thomas`s Improving Harrow and equipment on covers with Massey Ferguson tractors and advert covers for lots of farming equipment.

Then **Bob Paterson** showed some postcards with vague bearings on agriculture – a bullock cart towing hay, flocks of sheep and postcards about wine production.

**Graeme Stewart** was next with some very old items from the area. An 1845 Thatcham ploughing certificate and crop survey reports on Shaw House from 1897. Then some sheets on local items including the new plaque in the Broadway for the three Thatcham soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross.

**Malcolm Hoskins** brought a book on agricultural machines with very nice illustrations of farming equipment including one on a Darby-Savey digger of 1880 and a straw burning machine of 1900. A lovely book.

There was no mini auction at half time as **David Beddoes** was away.

**Tony Hillier** started off part 2 showing two sheets of Belgian agricultural stamps and a maxi sheet of a farm worker harvesting the hay that was issued by the Royal Philatelic Society of Gwent.

Then **Juliet Keel** showed lovely early, mostly foreign, 20<sup>th</sup>C postcards of `Women in Farming` showing them carrying out various lots of farming activities.

**Jonathan Barman** was next and he showed a lovely old book about farming and a Beekeepers association newsletter article about Bee stamps called `The Countryside Remembered`.

Then to finish off the afternoon **Dave Tanner** showed stamps of George III - `Farmer George` and stamps of various cattle breeds. Apparently George Washington was a keen agriculturalist as well. Then he showed sheets of stamps with agricultural scenes, farming implements and lots of vegetables from various countries around the world.

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

**Tristan Brittain** was the guest speaker for today and his subject was `Rubbish`. He explained just what this title meant by saying that much of it should have been buried but was saved for some reason for which he was very grateful as there was to be found much interesting material to research and find out where it all came from.

There were letters to and from Covent Garden to several people dating from 1780 to 1869. Lots of very early letters and covers to and from so many people from 1810-1870 that he had sorted out. A letter to a Frederick Place which was not known at many locations until finally it arrived at the correct area of Kensington. The letter was franked front and back from all the `not known` places. Tristan spoke about quite an unbelievable array of letters, cards and envelopes to and from so many people!

For part 2 Tristan followed the theme with items that he had found in job lots and had sorted out and collated over many years. He showed a letter from Auschwitz from a

prisoner who escaped and survived, a 1769 Christmas letter, a letter of 1541 from the Bishop of Durham and a lovely letter from Agnes Love with a picture of the actual address from Google Earth. She was born in Totnes in Devon in 1821. The letter was sent to her in Camberwell in 1830 when she was studying at Rebecca Eason school. Then many early letters of the 17C and 18C from both ordinary and famous people including Robert Peel. Many of these letters contained quite personal and often funny details. This was a most interesting and unique evenings subject. Many thanks to Tristan for filling the gap and entertaining us all so well.

### **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**

The theme for today was `Antiques and Art Deco` - but, as usual - anything goes!

**Ian Keel** started with his version of antiques with several pages of stamps showing old transport and shop articles.

Then **Juliet Keel** showed cards and sheets covering rock carvings, Egyptian artifacts on cards, stamps of old furniture styles and Anglo- Saxon metal objects. Then some art deco cards of building styles and furniture and a beautiful tea-towel of the House of Penance.

**Graeme Stewart** was next with very old covers showing post boxes from 1852-6 and various pictures of original post boxes throughout the years and a Liverpool `special` that accepted newspapers as well, and finally some pictures of the original Thatcham station from about 1890.

Next **Bob Paterson** showed a set of maps issued in 1895 for the art deco exhibition in France and some very old antique cups and saucers, a coronation mug and a bar of Knights Castille soap from 1940.

To finish the first half **Judy Straughan** showed some art deco stamps mainly from S. America but several from Europe to include Germany, France and Austria.

**Tony Hillier** started the second half with Belgian stamps (of course) which showed an old art deco style basilica, a lovely Minton statue of an Endine nude made for the 1866 exhibition and a quite heavy 1796 2 pence coin which he actually had with him !

**Tony Jordan** was next and showed art deco covers from Austria – all very colourful and they had horses on ! A 1934 Vienna exhibition envelope and the 1933/4 Chicago art deco issues and a nice cover.

**Dave Tanner** showed many pages of Persian stamps that were over 100 years old. Then Persian antiques on stamps issued by Iran. Pictures of old bricks and shards and views of the old ziggurat, an old framed map of Iran and to finish, a 3000 year old brick that he spotted and `acquired` on his travels.

**David Beddoes** showed some covers that illustrated antique silver, clocks, ancient rock art and 2 covers that illustrated the history of writing.

Then to finish the afternoon, **Martin Farr** showed some sheets of covers and stamps all about Aboriginal art and a beautiful art deco Nordic catalogue cover that was all about Nordic myths and legends. What a great and entertaining afternoon.

**The Society annual auction was held on Thursday November 19<sup>th</sup>.**

There were 32 people present to include several guests – a very good turn out.



**Tony Jordan** was the auctioneer with assistance from **David Beddoes** as the recorder and **Barney Bardsley** as the invoice recorder.

**Mike Ward** dealt with all the financial matters both before and after the bidding while **Colin Bartholemew** and **Alan Cross** looked after all the lots and saw that the successful bidders got the correct lots issued to them.

576 lots were on offer and thanks must go to **Mike Ward** who co-ordinated all of them into the correct categories and then did all the printing. A tremendous time-consuming task that was very well done with a nice catalogue of lots produced.

245 lots were sold – 47.5 %, leaving 331 unsold. The total sales amount was £1,509, with the Society lots achieving £130. A very successful evening – well done to all.

### **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.**

The Theme for today was `Defunct Countries and we had just 14 members present.

**Ian Keel** started the day showing several pages of stamps from Rhodesia – now Zimbabwe, and Nyasaland and then some states that were part of Russia. He then put up two pages of postcards from **Juliet** from East Germany, Dubrovnic (ex Yugoslavia), and Burma.

**David Tanner** was next and he brought sheets of stamps from the GDR as was, Danzig, - now Gdansk – Bavaria, now in the FDR, Fiume, and Croatia. \Then some nice sheets of Tanna Touva stamps from 1935-6, some early Soviet Union issues and old Zanzibar.

**Tony Jordan** redefined the word `defunct` for us and then showed U.N. covers, 1958 centenary issues of Russian stamps, Russian `house` stamps and some colourful U.S. sheets of stamps – some with horses on of course!

**Bob Paterson** showed set of Rhodesia and Nyasaland – now Zimbabwe and Malawi.

**Graeme Stewart** had some covers from the Boer War and the Transvaal, covers of letters to a Lady Garden from the Cape of Good Hope and a picture cover from Saigon to Newbury

Then to finish off **Mike Gurr** showed some more sets of stamps from Rhodesia and S. Rhodesia, and some sets of stamps from Nyasaland and N & S Rhodesia as was.

The Monday Christmas Quiz on `Biscuits` was set by **Martin Farr** and it was won by

**Tony Hillier** with a score of 14 from 20. Well done Tony who chose the tin of biscuits (what else could the prize be).

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December** was the occasion of the Society Competitions, Christmas Social and quiz.

The guest judge for the three advanced competitions was **Mike Smith** from the Basingstoke Society while those attending judged the remaining ones.

Many, many thanks to **Juliet and Ian Keel** for providing the excellent buffet that we had – most delicious! and to **Mike Ward and Martin Farr** for the drinks – sorry about the red wine – one went to the competitions judge!

## THE POSTCARD PAGE ETC

### The Competition Winners

The Jubilee Cup	won by	Alan Cross	with Australian postage dues
The Reg Rhodes Shield	won by	Ian Keel	with Nobel prize winners
The Keith Foster Trophy	won by	Graeme Stewart	with Thatcham postmarks
The Frank Record Trophy	won by	Tony Jordan	with Benjamin Franklin
The Novices Cup	won by	Mike Smith	with Bechuanaland railways
The Single-sheet Salver	won by	Malcolm Hoskins	with G.B. forgeries
The Society Trophy	won by	Alan Cross	for the highest Jubilee Cup score

Afterwards there was a 34 question Christmas Quiz set by **Bob Paterson** which was won by our chairman **Barney Bardsley** with a score of 24 from 34. Then the chairman presented **Juliet Keel** with a nice bunch of flowers for all her hard work with the catering.

So nice to see a good number of entries for the competitions, particularly the 14 entries for the Single sheet.



Tony Hillier won the Monday Quiz



Barney won the Social evening quiz

### Defunct Horses



### Tanna Touva



### USEFUL WEBSITES

Tony Bray for World new issues at [www.tonybray.co.uk](http://www.tonybray.co.uk)

Royal Mail for all past and new issues at [www.royalmail.com](http://www.royalmail.com)

The society website with lots of data and links at [www.tdps.co.uk](http://www.tdps.co.uk)

Avion Thematics – one of the best organised sites at [www.avionstamps.com](http://www.avionstamps.com)

\*\*The Avion website now incorporates the stock listings for Phoenix International\*\*

Portsmouth stamp shop for awkward items and covers at [www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk](http://www.portsmouthstampshop.co.uk)

A.B.P.S for all the latest philatelic news, events and links at [www.abps.org.uk](http://www.abps.org.uk)

[www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk](http://www.stampauctionsnetwork.co.uk) for lots of info about auctions almost everywhere

### Recent and Future Royal Mail Issues

January 7 <sup>th</sup>	Shackleton and Endurance Expedition
January 28 <sup>th</sup>	Duke of Edinburgh Awards – 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
February 17 <sup>th</sup>	Royal Mail 500 – Heritage postage `Transport`
February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Penny Red generic sheet issue
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	British Humanitarians
March/April	New definitives - Tariff changes
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	William Shakespeare – 400 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death
April 21 <sup>st</sup>	H.M. the Queen`s 90th Birthday issue
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	ANZAC WW1 commemorative sheet
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	ANIMAIL (The actual title!)

### Refreshments Problems

An extra pair of hands is required at our meetings – especially the Monday meetings. Ian and Juliet cannot always guarantee to be available and Ann may not be able to come to all the meetings as well.

It really needs two persons on a Thursday and perhaps maybe just one on a Monday to prepare, present and clear up afterwards.

Would you please speak to Ian and Juliet if you can help as required.

Thank you.

### Future Programme and Events

Monday January 4 <sup>th</sup>	Earth, Wind and Fire
Thursday January 14 <sup>th</sup>	New acquisitions by members
Monday February 1 <sup>st</sup>	Flags
Thursday February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Postcards and Postal History
17 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Spring STAMPEX at Islington
Monday March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Food and Drink
11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> March	South of England Stamp Show at Farnborough
Thursday March 17 <sup>th</sup>	“Its who you know” with guest speaker Mel Reid
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> March	WESTBEX STAMP FAIR
	At the Kennet School, Thatcham, from 10am to 4 pm
Monday April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Malcolm Hoskins Entertains.
Thursday April 21 <sup>st</sup>	Anniversary Evening – see back page

## **THE BACK PAGE**

### **“Club Stamps” corner**

**Club Stamps** are well looked after by **Dave Tanner** who will be present at most of our club meetings. There will usually be a Club Table at all stamp fairs held at the Memorial Hall.

#### **Accessories**

Dave is also the contact for the purchase of all philatelic accessories – most of which are available to be ordered at a small discount.

Stamps of the World Catalogue set (normal price - £200 ) – TDPS price £155 + p&p

Collect British stamps (normal price - £12.95 ) – TDPS price £10 + p&p

GB Concise (normal price - £30) – TDPS price £23.50 + p&p

A small percentage always goes to club funds. Give Dave a ring on 01256 780467

### **A Very Special Announcement**

Many Congratulations to John Baron our President  
who has been elected as a  
Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

He is the very first member of our Thatcham Society to be  
accorded this honour

### **Anniversary Announcements**

The meeting for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April is the Society 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Social.  
There will be a presentation of the Society History and a souvenir mug for  
all.

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Buffet Lunch will be held at the  
Bluecoats School in Thatcham.

The guest speaker at this event will be Thomas Plant from S.A.S. Auctions

#### **Officers of the Club**

<b>President</b>	John Baron	01933 650093
<b>Chairman</b>	Barney Bardsley	0777 0376 235
<b>Vice Chair</b>		
<b>Secretary</b>	Graeme Stewart	01635 866942
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mike Ward	01635 864307

#### **Committee**

Tony Jordan	01189 302279
Colin Bartholemew	01635 865457

**Archivist**

**WestBex** Graeme and Martin

**Publicity**

Martin Farr